COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Navy ASW Director Assesses Soviet Submarine Strength

The Soviet Union is building from five to 10 nuclear submarines a year and will probably have an undersea firing capability similar to that of the U. S. Navy's Polaris missile before long, according to VAdm. Charles B. Martell, director of Navy's anti-submarine warfare (ASW) program.

He said the Russians have around 400 submarines and about 10 percent of these are nuclear powered.

Adm. Martell said the United States is considerably ahead of the Soviet Union in ASW technology, but the U. S. cannot be sure when its ASW capability will be challenged. The capabilities of opposing submarines must be expected to improve as further technological advances are achieved, he said.

Russia has embarked on an aggressive submarine building program, he said, but has not pursued an aggressive campaign concerning fleet disposition of the submarine.

Russian submarines are not patroling the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam, Adm. Martell said, and they do not patrol United States coasts. They are not deployed, for instance, around missile firing installations such as Cape Kennedy.

Concerning U. S. readiness, the ASW budget through FY65-67 has been around $3 billion a year.

Local Guerrilla Training Poses Problem For VC Leaders In Field

The Viet Cong's real strength remains with its leadership described by informed sources as still well-trained and dedicated.

But there are indications the VC have a training problem in local guerrilla units, with new recruits bringing most bands up to 100 percent strength.

VC mainline units and North Vietnamese force levels are estimated to be between 70 to 80 percent.

The so-called VC strategic mobility concept really means "preparing the battlefield," laboriously digging fortifications, setting up gun positions, etc., to achieve the guerrilla's desire to have things his own way before battle. Allied spoiling operations are denying the VC this opportunity, preempting his valuable time, according to informed sources.

WELCOME BREAK—Men of the 101st Airborne Division's "Screaming Eagles" take a break before loading aboard an Air Force C-130 aircraft at Tuy Hoa air base during Operation Pickett. The airlift, accomplished in record time, moved 2,400 tons of equipment and 4,000 men to Kontum, Vietnam. The accomplishment was credited to precision timing and teamwork between the two services.

Military Installations to Conduct Home Fallout Protection Survey

A home fallout protection survey is scheduled to be conducted at military installations as part of a continuing nationwide Civil Defense program.

The DOD Office of Civil Defense (OCD) noted that each military department is responsible for determining the survey scope and procedures and for conducting the survey of its own installations.

The home survey program involves use of a form, for completion by householders, asking a few questions about the construction characteristics of the home.

Surveys at military installations are scheduled to be completed by April 1.

The Home Fallout Protection Survey Program was developed to locate and evaluate space available in homes and make the information available to householders.

OCD said "studies show that most home basements offer a significant amount of fallout shelter."

Information obtained from the survey will be processed through Bureau of Census computers with results being sent to householders along with suggestions on how to increase the protection in basement areas, if necessary.

Washington Memos

MARINE CORPS SELECTION board has picked 12 colonels for promotion to temporary brigadier general. Selected were: George C. Axtell Jr., George D. Webster; James A. Feeley Jr.; Foster C. La Hue; Charles F. Widdecke; Louis H. Wilson Jr.; John N. McLaughlin; Jacob E. Glick; John E. Williams; Robert R. Fairburn; James F. Lawrence Jr. and Homer S. Hill.

DOD'S ADVANCED Research Projects Agency has established an Office of Advanced Engineering headed by Dr. Chiao Jen Wang, formerly of Booz-Allen Applied Research, Inc.

MEN OF ARMY'S 4th Infantry Div., 2nd Brigade, received awards from Premier of Vietnam Nguyen Cao Ky for actions in Operation Paul Revere IV. Topping list of awards was National Order Fifth Class Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm presented to Maj. Gen. A. S. Collins Jr., division commander. Premier Ky presented 19 other awards to men of the division.

BASIC AND ADVANCED information training quotas at Defense Information School are expected to increase beginning January 1967. Broadcast Specialist Course will begin double shift schedule in February and Basic Military Journalist classes will then begin every two weeks instead of every four.

AIR FORCE KC-135 Stratotankers of the Strategic Air Command have completed aerial delivery of one billion pounds of fuel in support of operations in Southeast Asia. One billionth pound was delivered by crew of Major Robert W. Winslow, 907th Air Refueling Sq., Glasgow AFB, Mont., while refueling a flight of SAC B-52 Stratofortresses enroute to targets in Vietnam.

FAA HAS ANNOUNCED allocations of $72.5 million in federal matching funds to help local communities construct and improve 341 civil airports. Emphasis is placed upon airport development to relieve traffic congestion at major air terminals and provide runways needed to accommodate jets.

TWO NAVAL ACADEMY students have been selected for Rhodes scholarships. Ens. Charles S. Abbot, USN, a 1966 graduate, and Midshipman Jerome M. Kirchberg Jr., member of class of '67, will attend Oxford University, England, beginning September 1967. Occasion marks fourth time two academy students have been selected in one year. Total number of Naval Academy students chosen since 1928 is 22.

SUPPLY UNITS OF U.S. Army Vietnam are receiving help in problem of getting right supplies to troops in the field at the right time. Army is installing a computerized magnetic ledger system, to be used initially by a limited number of support units in Vietnam. Program is first of its kind in Army.

AIR FORCE OFFICER Training School Class 67-D has graduated at Lackland AFB, Tex., with commissions awarded to 963. Eighteen commissions were awarded to WAF.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY cadets successfully completing Military Parachute Training Course (MT-490) may be awarded parachutist's badge. Course offered at AFA is comparable to Army course at Ft. Benning, Ga. Academy was also authorized to place personnel on parachute jump status (no pay involved) for duration of the prescribed course of instruction, or while acting in a supervisory capacity as jumpmasters.

ARMY-AIR FORCE Exchange Service announced that Alamo Area Support Center, Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., has awarded its first contract. Alamo ASC is first of 23 centers to begin operation under AAFES continental U.S. reorganization.

LARGEST GROUP of Air Force captains promoted to major has been released with the first increment of 1,599 effective Dec. 20. The remainder of about 11,000 captains promoted are to assume higher grade by the end of June.

$6.7 MILLION SAVINGS during FY66 under the DOD Value Engineering Program were announced by Navy Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia. Largest saving was achieved through study that found present-day inflatable life raft material does not deteriorate with age and mandatory disposal based on age alone is unnecessary.

TOWNSPEOPLE OF Llanquera, Bolivia, will honor the memory of a U.S. Air Force pilot who crashed near the town last summer by naming their new village school the "Captain R. D. Hickman School." Capt. Hickman was flying a SAC WU-2 high altitude reconnaissance aircraft that crashed on a mountain near Llanquera.

GORDON H. TYLER, currently assistant director of procurement (policy and review), NASA, has been selected as executive secretary, Defense Industry Advisory Council, subject to Civil Service Commission approval. He was named to succeed Clyde Bothmer, who resigned Nov. 1.

NOVEMBER ENLISTMENTS in the Air Force totaled 8,744, including 501 prior service airmen and 156 WAF.

USO BOARD of Governors has named Justin M. Morrill as USO executive director to succeed the late Edwin E. Bond. Also, Anita Bryant, recording and television star, has been named to the USO National Council, which implements board policies.

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Army REP Training Set For January Acceleration

Active duty training for about 150,000 Reserve Enlistment Program (REP) enlistees from Army National Guard and Army Reserve units is planned during January through June 1967.

Army will place some 37,000 REP enlistees in training centers during January. This is expected to reduce by July the number of personnel awaiting training to about 15,000-20,000, as compared to 133,000 in June 1966.

The backlog of untrained REP personnel currently totals about 120,000.

Acceleration of the REP training is permitted by lowering draft calls and reducing active Army training requirements during the last half FY67.

President Praises Vietnam Veterans

Before lighting the nation's Christmas tree, President Johnson told a group of Vietnam war veterans that each exercised the highest form of citizenship that any citizen can perform.

"You have all defended freedom in a great hour of need," the President told veterans in the East Room of the White House. "You bear the scars of that sacrifice as an emblem of devotion to your country."

At the tree lighting, President Johnson noted that the tide of battle has turned in Vietnam.

"No one can say just how long that war will last," the President said, "But we can say that aggression has been blunted, and that peace, with honor, will surely follow."

Noting that the months ahead will not be easy ones, President Johnson said: "They will require great sacrifice, patience, understanding and tolerance from each of us."

U.S. Calls for Vietnam Economy Study

The White House has announced that, in the opinion of the United States and Republic of Vietnam, "it is time now to prepare for the problems and opportunities of peace."

The move is in response to a request from Prime Minister Ky, with the two governments sponsoring a joint planning effort on the long-run development of the Vietnamese economy.

With the concurrence of the Vietnamese, the United States has asked David Lilienthal to lead a non-governmental U.S. study and planning team which will report to the two governments.

The team will operate under contract to the Agency for International Development.

TIGER FAMILY—Lt. Col. Dan J. Jacobs, USAF (center), commander, 84th Military Airlift Sq., Travis AFB, Calif., displays one of the unit "tiger" awards presented to three Travis airlift squadrons by Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Hales (2nd from right), originator of the award. Other winners are (from left) Lt. Col. Milton Butler, 85th Military Airlift Sq., and Lt. Col. Dean W. Willson, 44th Military Airlift Sq. Brig. Gen. Maurice F. Casey, (right) 60th Military Airlift Wing commander, presented a certificate of appreciation to Col. Hales during the ceremony.

Army Selection Boards To Consider Reserves

Army will convene selection boards March 7 and April 4 to mandatorily consider reserve component officers for promotion to colonel and lieutenant colonel.

The March board will consider eligible National Guard and Reserve lieutenant colonels on the Army Promotion List and Chaplain lieutenant colonels, both on active duty and not on active duty. It will also consider eligible Women's Army Corps majors, both active and non-active duty, for lieutenant colonel promotion.

April's board will consider eligible ARNG and USAR Army Medical Service lieutenant colonels, both active and non-active duty and eligible Medical Specialist Corps and Army Nurse Corps majors, both active and non-active duty.

Zones of consideration for both boards require service computed through May 31, 1968 as defined in para 9, AR 135-155. Service requirements for consideration for promotion to colonel are seven years time-in-grade and 19 years total commissioned service.

Consideration for promotion to lieutenant colonel is seven years in grade and 17 years total commissioned service.

Sec. Resor Bestows Medal of Honor On Army Officer

The Medal of Honor was presented to Army 1st Lt. Walter J. Marm Jr., by Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor on behalf of the President at the Pentagon on Dec. 19.

Lt. Marm was cited for action in Vietnam against a hostile force in the Ia Drang Valley vicinity, Nov. 14, 1965. He was a 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) platoon leader and a second lieutenant at the time.

After killing four of the enemy, the lieutenant deliberately exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to locate a hidden machine gun. He then moved more than 30 yards across open ground to single-handedly wipe out the position despite severe head and neck wounds suffered in the engagement.

Lt. Marm's actions are officially credited with breaking the enemy assault.

DOD Handicap Program Cited By President's Committee

DOD efforts to increase employment opportunities for disabled persons through on-the-job workshop training have been commended by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Harold Russell, committee chairman, presented the commendation to Paul R. Ignatius, assistant secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) at a Pentagon ceremony.

Gen. Johnson Visits Vietnam

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson is in the Republic of Vietnam to confer with senior Army commanders and visit troop units in the field.

Accompanying Gen. Johnson are Lt. Gen. Harry J. Lemley Jr., deputy Chief of Staff for operations, Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware, chief of information, and SMaj. William O. Wooldridge, sergeant major of the Army.

MEDAL OF HONOR—1st Lt. Walter J. Marm Jr., USA, (right) latest to receive the nation's highest military award, is joined by a World War II recipient of the Medal of Honor, Army Chief of Information Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware, at Pentagon news conference.

Army 30-Year Men Affected By Assignment Policy Change

Enlisted Army personnel with 30 years or more active service now face the prospect of receiving an overseas assignment because of a policy change.

The change affects Army's practice of stabilizing those with 27 years or more by assigning them within CONUS or to their area of residence. This helps individuals adjust to retirement when they reach the 30-year mark.

Army will now stabilize through the 28-30-year period, but will make these individuals eligible for overseas assignment if they do not retire upon completing 30 years.

This action results from some remaining on active duty beyond 30 years, which in effect stabilizes them for extended periods. Army says this is unfair to others in the same MOS and grade, who may serve more than their fair share of duty in short tour areas as a result.

Service Ration Allowance Increases 13 Cents Jan. 1

The commuted and leave rations' food allowance for enlisted personnel will be increased from $1.17 to $1.30 daily beginning Jan. 1.

The 13-cent daily increase was approved by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and applies to service personnel worldwide.

Commuted rations are paid to those authorized to eat off base, or at home, instead of in military dining halls.

Leave rations are paid to all personnel on furlough.

22 U.S. Scientists To Study Antarctic

Twenty-two scientists of the Environmental Science Services Administration will participate in the 1967 U.S. Antarctic Research Program.

The scientists will conduct experiments and research into various aspects of the Antarctic envirnoment.

Fifteen of the scientists will spend the winter in Antarctic, remaining until around December 1967. The other seven scientists will conduct research during the Antarctic summer and probably return next March.

The scientists will be stationed at the Byrd, South Pole and Plateau Stations and on the USNS Eltanin, a research vessel.

Satellites Can Measure Snowfall, Assist In Forecast of Floods

Information obtained from Tiros and Essa satellite pictures shows that measurement of snowfall may be feasible and aid flood forecasting.

A study by the Weather Bureau's Office of Hydrology showed that one inch or more of continuous snow cover could be reliably identified from satellite pictures.

The Office of Hydrology is considering additional studies of satellite snow mapping with satellite cameras to obtain greater detail.

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